

CLAIMS:

1. A nut assembly for a stringed musical instrument, the instrument having an instrument body, a head, and at least one string, said nut assembly comprising:

a nut receiving structure associated with the head end of the instrument,

a nut main body having at least one string holder for securing an end of a musical instrument string, the nut main body being mountable to the nut receiving structure to secure the nut main body in a position to place the string secured by said at least one string holder under tension and to allow the nut main body to be readily released from the nut receiving structure.

2. The removable nut assembly of claim 1, wherein the nut receiving structure comprises a block mounted to the head end of the instrument.

3. The removable nut assembly of claim 2, wherein the block is trapezoidal in cross section.

4. The removable nut assembly of claim 2, wherein the nut main body includes a complementary recess formed therein to engage the block.

5. The removable nut assembly of claim 4, wherein the nut main body is slidably mateable with the block.

6. The removable nut assembly of claim 2, wherein the nut receiving structure is mounted to the instrument by at least one fastener.

7. The removable nut assembly of claim 1, wherein the nut main body includes at least one receiving hole formed in the head end of the instrument.

8. The removable nut assembly of claim 7, wherein the nut receiving structure includes a pair of angled holes in the head end of the instrument.

9. The removable nut assembly of claim 8, wherein the nut assembly includes a pair of protrusions configured to engage the holes and to slidably secure the nut assembly to

the instrument.

10. The removable nut assembly of claim 1, wherein the nut main body includes an opening formed therein , and wherein the nut receiving structure includes a pin protruding from the head end of the instrument configured to slidably mate with the opening formed in the nut main body in the nut main body.

11. The removable nut assembly of claim 10, wherein the pin extends in a direction substantially parallel to the instrument strings.

12. The removable nut assembly of claim 1, wherein the at least one string includes an anchor fastened to one end of the string.

13. The removable nut assembly of claim 12, wherein the string holder includes a complementary recess adapted to secure the anchor to the nut main body.

14. The removable nut assembly of claim 13, wherein the anchor and the recess are bullet shaped.

15. The removable nut assembly of claim 1, wherein the nut receiving structure includes a latch mechanism.

16. A guitar including the removable nut assembly of claim 1.

17. The guitar of claim 16, wherein the guitar includes a bridge releasably mounted to the body end of the instrument in a manner to permit removal of the bridge, the nut main body and the at least one string while the at least one string remains affixed to the bridge and the nut main body.

18. A stringed instrument comprising:

a body, a head, and at least one string extending between the head and body;

a readily removable nut assembly having at least one string holder releasably secured to the head end of the instrument.

19. The stringed instrument of claim 18, wherein

the instrument is a guitar.

20. The stringed instrument of claim 19, wherein the nut assembly includes at least one string holder.

21. The stringed instrument of claim 20, wherein the nut assembly includes a plurality of string holders to hold a plurality of strings.

22. The stringed instrument of claim 21, wherein the strings include an anchor on the ends thereof.

23. The stringed instrument of claim 22, wherein the nut assembly includes complementary anchor recesses for receiving string anchors therein.

24. The stringed instrument of claim 23, wherein the anchors and the anchor recesses are bullet shaped.

25. The stringed instrument of claim 21, further comprising a removable bridge mounted on the body end of the instrument.

26. The stringed instrument of claim 25, wherein the bridge includes a plurality a string holders, and a plurality of strings extend between the bridge and the nut assembly.

27. The stringed instrument of claim 25, wherein the bridge, the nut assembly and the strings are removable from the instrument while the strings are assembled to the nut assembly and the bridge.

28. The stringed instrument of claim 18, wherein the nut assembly comprises a nut receiving structure associated with the head end of the instrument, and a nut main body having at least one string holder for securing an end of a musical instrument string, the nut main body being mountable to the nut receiving to secure the nut main body in a position to place the string secured by said at least one string holder under tension and to allow the nut main body to be readily released from the nut receiving structure.

29. The stringed instrument of claim 28, wherein the nut receiving structure comprises a block mounted to the

head end of the instrument.

30. The stringed instrument of claim 29, wherein the block is trapezoidal in cross section.

31. The stringed instrument of claim 30, wherein the nut main body includes a complementary recess formed therein to engage the block.

32. The stringed instrument of claim 31, wherein the nut main body is slidably mateable with the block.

33. The stringed instrument of claim 28, wherein the nut receiving structure is mounted to the instrument by at least one fastener.

34. The stringed instrument of claim 28, wherein the nut receiving structure includes at least one receiving hole formed in the head end of the instrument.

35. The stringed instrument of claim 28, wherein the nut receiving structure includes a pair of angled holes in the head end of the instrument.

36. The stringed instrument of claim 35, wherein the nut assembly includes a pair of protrusions configured to engage the holes and to slidably secure the nut assembly to the instrument.

37. The stringed instrument of claim 28, wherein the nut receiving structure includes a pin protruding from the head end of the instrument configured to slidably mate with an opening formed in the nut assembly.

38. The stringed instrument of claim 37, wherein the pin extends in a direction substantially parallel to the instrument strings.

39. The stringed instrument of claim 18 wherein the nut assembly includes a latch mechanism.

40. A kit for replacing the strings of a stringed instrument comprising:

a nut assembly including a plurality of string holders, the nut assembly configured to be readily installed to and removed from a head end of a stringed instrument; and

at least one string configured to be inserted in the nut assembly.

41. The kit of claim 40, further comprising a bridge assembly including a plurality of string holders, the bridge assembly including a plurality of string holders.

42. The kit of claim 41, further comprising a plurality of strings extending between the string holders of the bridge assembly and the string holders of the nut assembly.

43. The kit of claim 42, wherein the strings include string anchors secured to both ends of the strings.

44. The kit of claim 43, wherein the string holders of the nut assembly and the bridge assembly include complementary recesses for receiving the anchors.

45. The kit of claim 44, wherein the anchors are bullet shaped.

46. The kit of claim 40, wherein the nut assembly is mountable to a nut receiving structure configured to be mounted to the head end of the instrument, and the nut assembly includes a nut main body having at least one string holder for securing an end of a musical instrument string, the nut main body being mountable to the nut receiving structure to secure the nut main body in a position to place the string secured by said at least one string holder under tension and to allow the nut main body to be readily released from the nut receiving structure.

47. The kit of claim 46, wherein the nut receiving structure comprises block configured to be mounted to the head end of the instrument.

48. The kit of claim 45, wherein the block is trapezoidal in cross section.

49. The kit of claim 48, wherein the nut main body includes a complementary recess formed therein to engage the block.

50. The kit of claim 49, wherein the nut main body

is slidably mateable with the block.

51. The kit of claim 46, wherein the nut receiving structure is mounted to the instrument by at least one fastener.

52. The kit of claim 46, wherein the nut receiving structure includes at least one receiving hole formed in the head end of the instrument.

53. The kit of claim 52, wherein the nut receiving structure includes a pair of angled holes in the head end of the instrument.

54. The kit of claim 53, wherein the nut assembly includes a pair of protrusions configured to engage the holes and to slidably secure the nut assembly to the instrument.

55. The kit of claim 46, wherein the nut receiving structure includes a pin protruding from the head end of the instrument configured to slidably mate with an opening formed in the nut assembly.

56. The kit of claim 55, wherein the pin extends in a direction substantially parallel to the instrument strings.

57. The kit of claim 40, wherein the nut includes a latch mechanism to secure the nut to the instrument.

58. A method of changing strings of a stringed instrument comprising removing the strings, removing a removable nut having a plurality of string holders secured to one end of the strings, and removing a removable bridge secured to the other end of the strings without removing the strings from the string holders.

59. The method of claim 58, further comprising releasing the bridge from the stringed instrument so that the bridge is removable from the instrument.

60. The method of claim 59 comprising removing the nut from a nut receiving structure mounted to the instrument.

61. The method of claim 60, wherein strings include anchors on both ends of the strings.

62. The method of claim 61, wherein the string holders of the nut and the bridge have complementary recesses for receiving the anchors.

63. The method of claim 62, wherein the string holders are bullet shaped.

64. The method of claim 60, further comprising assembling the nut to a nut receiving structure associated with the head end of the instrument, the nut being readily removable from the nut receiving structure.

65. The method of claim 64, wherein the nut receiving structure comprises a block mounted to the head end of the instrument.

66. The method of claim 65, wherein the block is trapezoidal in cross section.

67. The method of claim 65, wherein the nut includes a complementary recess formed therein to engage the block.

68. The method of claim 67, wherein the nut is mounted by sliding the recess over the block.

69. The method of claim 65, wherein the nut receiving structure is mounted to the instrument by at least one fastener.

70. The method of claim 65, wherein the nut receiving structure includes at least one receiving hole formed in the head end of the instrument.

71. The method of claim 70, wherein the nut receiving structure includes a pair of angled holes in the head end of the instrument.

72. The method of claim 71, wherein the nut assembly includes a pair of protrusions configured to engage the holes and to slidably secure the nut assembly to the instrument.

73. The method of claim 65, wherein the nut receiving structure includes a pin protruding from the head end of the instrument configured to slidably mate with an

opening formed in the nut assembly.

74. The method of claim 73, wherein the pin extends in a direction substantially parallel to the instrument strings.

75. The method of claim 58, further comprising releasing a latch mechanism associated with the nut.